

The Honorable Kymberly K. Evanson

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AT SEATTLE
CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
BY DEPUTY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff,
v.
ALEX ORTIZ,
Defendant.

NO. CR24-079 KKE

PLEA AGREEMENT

ALEX ORTIZ,
Defendant.

The United States, through Acting United States Attorney Teal Luthy Miller and Assistant United States Attorneys Casey S. Conzatti and Elyne M. Vaught of the Western District of Washington and Alex Ortiz and Mr. Ortiz's attorney Jeffrey Krasel *et al.* enter into the following Plea Agreement, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(B).

1. **The Charge.** Defendant, having been advised of the right to have this matter tried before a jury, agrees to waive that right and enters a plea of guilty to the following charge contained in the Indictment.

a. Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances, as charged in Count 1 of the indictment, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(C), and 846.

1 By entering a plea of guilty, Defendant hereby waives all objections to the form of
2 the charging document. Defendant further understands that before entering any guilty
3 plea, Defendant will be placed under oath. Any statement given by Defendant under oath
4 may be used by the United States in a prosecution for perjury or false statement.

5 **2. Elements of the Offense.** The elements of Conspiracy to Distribute
6 Controlled Substances, as charged in Count 1 of the indictment, to which Defendant is
7 pleading guilty are as follows:

8 a. Beginning at a time unknown, but within the past five years, and
9 continuing until on or about May 8, 2024, there was an agreement between two or more
10 persons to distribute controlled substances including methamphetamine, and fentanyl

11 b. The Defendant joined in the agreement knowing of its purpose and
12 intending to help accomplish that purpose.

13 **3. The Penalties.** Defendant understands that the statutory penalties
14 applicable to the offense to which Defendant is pleading guilty are as follows:

15 a. For the offense of Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances,
16 as charged in Count 1 of the indictment: A maximum term of imprisonment of up
17 to 20 years, a fine of up to \$1,000,000, a period of supervision following release
18 from prison of at least three years, and a mandatory special assessment of one
19 hundred dollars. If a probationary sentence is imposed, the probation period can be
20 for up to five years.

21 Defendant understands that supervised release is a period of time following
22 imprisonment during which Defendant will be subject to certain restrictive conditions and
23 requirements. Defendant further understands that, if supervised release is imposed and
24 Defendant violates one or more of the conditions or requirements, Defendant could be
25 returned to prison for all or part of the term of supervised release that was originally
26 imposed. This could result in Defendant serving a total term of imprisonment greater than
27 the statutory maximum stated above.

1 Defendant understands that as a part of any sentence, in addition to any term of
2 imprisonment and/or fine that is imposed, the Court may order Defendant to pay
3 restitution to any victim of the offense, as required by law.

4 Defendant further understands that the consequences of pleading guilty may
5 include the forfeiture of certain property, either as a part of the sentence imposed by the
6 Court, or as a result of civil judicial or administrative process.

7 Defendant agrees that any monetary penalty the Court imposes, including the
8 special assessment, fine, costs, or restitution, is due and payable immediately and further
9 agrees to submit a completed Financial Disclosure Statement as requested by the United
10 States Attorney's Office.

11 Defendant understands that, if pleading guilty to a felony drug offense, Defendant
12 will become ineligible for certain food stamp and Social Security benefits as directed by
13 Title 21, United States Code, Section 862a.

14 4. **Immigration Consequences.** Defendant recognizes that pleading guilty
15 may have consequences with respect to Defendant's immigration status if Defendant is
16 not a citizen of the United States. Under federal law, a broad range of crimes are grounds
17 for removal, and some offenses make removal from the United States presumptively
18 mandatory. Removal and other immigration consequences are the subject of a separate
19 proceeding, and Defendant understands that no one, including Defendant's attorney and
20 the Court, can predict with certainty the effect of a guilty plea on immigration status.
21 Defendant nevertheless affirms that Defendant wants to plead guilty regardless of any
22 immigration consequences that Defendant's guilty plea(s) may entail, even if the
23 consequence is Defendant's mandatory removal from the United States.

24 5. **Rights Waived by Pleading Guilty.** Defendant understands that by
25 pleading guilty, Defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives the following rights:

- 26 a. The right to plead not guilty and to persist in a plea of not guilty;
27 b. The right to a speedy and public trial before a jury of Defendant's

1 peers;

2 c. The right to the effective assistance of counsel at trial, including, if
3 Defendant could not afford an attorney, the right to have the Court appoint one for
4 Defendant;

5 d. The right to be presumed innocent until guilt has been established
6 beyond a reasonable doubt at trial;

7 e. The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against Defendant
8 at trial;

9 f. The right to compel or subpoena witnesses to appear on Defendant's
10 behalf at trial;

11 g. The right to testify or to remain silent at trial, at which trial such
12 silence could not be used against Defendant; and

13 h. The right to appeal a finding of guilt or any pretrial rulings.

14 6. **United States Sentencing Guidelines.** Defendant understands and
15 acknowledges that the Court must consider the sentencing range calculated under the
16 United States Sentencing Guidelines and possible departures under the Sentencing
17 Guidelines together with the other factors set forth in Title 18, United States Code,
18 Section 3553(a), including: (1) the nature and circumstances of the offense(s); (2) the
19 history and characteristics of Defendant; (3) the need for the sentence to reflect the
20 seriousness of the offense(s), to promote respect for the law, and to provide just
21 punishment for the offense(s); (4) the need for the sentence to afford adequate deterrence
22 to criminal conduct; (5) the need for the sentence to protect the public from further
23 crimes of Defendant; (6) the need to provide Defendant with educational and vocational
24 training, medical care, or other correctional treatment in the most effective manner; (7)
25 the kinds of sentences available; (8) the need to provide restitution to victims; and (9) the
26 need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparity among defendants involved in similar
27

1 conduct who have similar records. Accordingly, Defendant understands and
2 acknowledges that:

3 a. The Court will determine Defendant's Sentencing Guidelines range
4 at the time of sentencing;

5 b. After consideration of the Sentencing Guidelines and the factors in
6 18 U.S.C. 3553(a), the Court may impose any sentence authorized by law, up to the
7 maximum term authorized by law;

8 c. The Court is not bound by any recommendation regarding the
9 sentence to be imposed, or by any calculation or estimation of the Sentencing Guidelines
10 range offered by the parties or the United States Probation Department, or by any
11 stipulations or agreements between the parties in this Plea Agreement; and

12 d. Defendant may not withdraw a guilty plea solely because of the
13 sentence imposed by the Court.

14 7. **Ultimate Sentence.** Defendant acknowledges that no one has promised or
15 guaranteed what sentence the Court will impose.

16 8. **Statement of Facts.** Defendant admits Defendant is guilty of the charged
17 offense. The parties agree on the following facts:

18 a. Beginning at a time unknown, and continuing until at least May 8,
19 2024, the defendant, Alex Ortiz, conspired with others known and unknown to distribute
20 controlled substances, including fentanyl and cocaine, within the Western District of
21 Washington.

22 b. The conspiracy is established by court-authorized interception of
23 wire and electronic communications; surveillance; seizure of drugs and cash; search
24 warrants; undercover purchase; and other evidence, only some of which is outlined
25 below.

1 c. Mr. Ortiz was responsible for maintaining and distributing controlled
2 substances, including cocaine, to his co-conspirators at the direction of other co-
3 conspirators, as well as collecting proceeds from the sale of controlled substances.

4 d. On February 11, 2024, investigators intercepted a phone call
5 between Mr. Ortiz and co-defendant David Padilla. During the call, Mr. Padilla told Mr.
6 Ortiz that co-defendant Hector Duran Aldaco was going to come to the house and get
7 “one” [one kilogram of cocaine]. Mr. Padilla told Mr. Ortiz that Mr. Duran Aldaco was
8 then going to take it to Shoreline, and the return with the money to pay for the kilogram.
9 During that same call Mr. Padilla told Mr. Ortiz that a third individual was going to be at
10 their house and drop off a second kilogram of cocaine. Mr. Ortiz was responsible for
11 providing the controlled substances to Mr. Duran Aldaco for redistribution and
12 collecting the proceeds from Mr. Duran Aldaco.

13 e. On May 14, 2024, investigators executed search warrants at a
14 number of locations associated with members of the DTO, including Mr. Ortiz’s
15 residence which he also shared with Mr. Padilla at 31804 47th Avenue South, Auburn,
16 WA 98001 (hereinafter the Auburn residence). In Mr. Ortiz’s room investigators located
17 approximately \$427 in U.S. currency. Investigators also located approximately \$4,538 in
18 U.S. currency from a drawer in a common area and approximately \$955 in U.S. currency
19 from another bedroom at the residence. Mr. Ortiz admits that this seized currency,
20 totaling approximately \$5,920, was his proceeds of the drug trafficking conspiracy.
21 During the search, investigators also seized one Colt Buntine Revolver, one Palmetto
22 AK-47 Rifle, one Panzer Arms Bull Pup Shotgun, one Beretta 92X Pistol, one Smith &
23 Wesson M&P P15 Rifle, one FNMI FNP9 Pistol, one MFG BCM4 Rifle, one Glock 19
24 Pistol, fourteen rounds of ammunition, and six magazines in various rooms throughout
25 the residence, all of which facilitated the charged conspiracy to distribute controlled
26 substances.

1 The parties agree that the Court may consider additional facts contained in the
2 Presentence Report (subject to standard objections by the parties) and/or that may be
3 presented by the United States or Defendant at the time of sentencing, and that the factual
4 statement contained herein is not intended to limit the facts that the parties may present to
5 the Court at the time of sentencing.

6 **9. Sentencing Factors.** The parties agree that the following Sentencing
7 Guidelines provisions apply to this case:

- 8 a. A base offense level of 24 as the relevant conduct involved at least
9 500 grams but less than two kilograms of converted drug weight, pursuant to USSG
10 § 2D1.1(c)(8);
11 b. A two-point increase, as a dangerous weapon was possessed
12 pursuant to USSG § 2D1.1(b)(1).

13 The parties agree they are free to present arguments regarding the applicability of
14 all other provisions of the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Defendant understands,
15 however, that at the time of sentencing, the Court is free to reject these stipulated
16 adjustments, and is further free to apply additional downward or upward adjustments in
17 determining Defendant's Sentencing Guidelines range.

18 **10. Acceptance of Responsibility.** At sentencing, if the Court concludes
19 Defendant qualifies for a downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility pursuant
20 to USSG § 3E1.1(a) and Defendant's offense level is 16 or greater, the United States will
21 make the motion necessary to permit the Court to decrease the total offense level by three
22 levels pursuant to USSG §§ 3E1.1(a) and (b), because Defendant has assisted the United
23 States by timely notifying the United States of Defendant's intention to plead guilty,
24 thereby permitting the United States to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the Court
25 to allocate its resources efficiently.

26 **11. Recommendation Regarding Imprisonment.** Pursuant to Federal Rule of
27 Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(B), the United States agrees to recommend that the

1 appropriate term of imprisonment to be imposed by the Court at the time of sentencing is
2 a term no higher than 36 months. Defendant agrees to recommend a term of
3 imprisonment of at least 12 months and one day. Defendant understands that these
4 recommendations are not binding on the Court and the Court may reject the
5 recommendation of the parties and may impose any term of imprisonment up to the
6 statutory maximum penalty authorized by law. Defendant further understands that
7 Defendant cannot withdraw a guilty plea simply because of the sentence imposed by the
8 Court. Except as otherwise provided in this Plea Agreement, the parties are free to
9 present arguments regarding any other aspect of sentencing.

10 **12. Forfeiture of Assets.** Defendant understands that the forfeiture of assets is
11 part of the sentence that must be imposed in this case. Defendant agrees to forfeit to the
12 United States immediately Defendant's right, title, and interest in any and all property,
13 real or personal, that constitutes proceeds of, and/or facilitated, his commission of
14 Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances, as charged in Count 1 of the Indictment.
15 This property is subject to forfeiture pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section
16 853, and includes, but is not limited to, the following property:

17 a. \$5,920 in U.S. currency, seized on or about May 14, 2024, from
18 Defendant's residence, located at 31804 47th Avenue South, Auburn, Washington; and

19 b. The following firearms and associated ammunition and accessories,
20 seized on or about May 14, 2024, from Defendant's residence, located at 31804 47th
21 Avenue South, Auburn, Washington:

- 22 i. One Colt Buntine Revolver;
23 ii. One Palmetto AK-47 Rifle;
24 iii. One Panzer Arms Bull Pup Shotgun;
25 iv. One Beretta 92X Pistol;
26 v. One Smith & Wesson M&P P15 Rifle;
27 vi. One FNMI FNP9 Pistol;

- 1 vii. One MFG BCM4 Rifle;
2 viii. One Glock 19 Pistol;
3 ix. Fourteen rounds of ammunition; and
4 x. Six magazines

5 Defendant agrees to fully assist the United States in the forfeiture of the above-
6 described property and to take whatever steps are necessary to pass clear title to the
7 United States, including but not limited to: surrendering title and executing any
8 documents necessary to effectuate such forfeiture; assisting in bringing any assets located
9 outside the United States within the jurisdiction of the United States; and taking whatever
10 steps are necessary to ensure that assets subject to forfeiture are not sold, disbursed,
11 wasted, hidden, or otherwise made unavailable for forfeiture. Defendant agrees not to
12 file a claim to any of the above-described property in any federal forfeiture proceeding,
13 administrative or judicial, which may be or has been initiated, and agrees not to assist
14 anyone else in making a claim to this property.

15 Defendant acknowledges that, in addition to the above-referenced \$5,920 that law
16 enforcement seized from Defendant's residence, law enforcement also seized
17 approximately \$22,569 from elsewhere in Defendant's residence during the search.
18 Defendant agrees not to file a claim to this \$22,569 in any federal forfeiture proceeding,
19 administrative or judicial, which may be or has been initiated, and agrees not to assist
20 anyone else in making a claim to this currency.

21 The United States reserves its right to proceed against any remaining property not
22 identified in this Plea Agreement, including any property in which Defendant has any
23 interest, if that property facilitated and/or constitutes proceeds of his commission of the
24 offense of Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances, as charged in Count 1.

25 13. **Abandonment of Contraband.** Defendant also agrees that, if any federal
26 law enforcement agency seized any illegal contraband, or any other firearms,
27 ammunition, or magazines, that were in Defendant's direct or indirect control, Defendant

1 consents to the federal administrative disposition, official use, and/or destruction of that
2 contraband.

3 **14. Non-Prosecution of Additional Offenses.** As part of this Plea Agreement,
4 the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington agrees not to
5 prosecute Defendant for any additional offenses known to it as of the time of this Plea
6 Agreement based upon evidence in its possession at this time, and that arise out of the
7 conduct giving rise to this investigation. In this regard, Defendant recognizes the United
8 States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington has agreed not to
9 prosecute all of the criminal charges the evidence establishes were committed by
10 Defendant solely because of the promises made by Defendant in this Plea Agreement.
11 Defendant agrees, however, that for purposes of preparing the Presentence Report, the
12 United States Attorney's Office will provide the United States Probation Office with
13 evidence of all conduct committed by Defendant.

14 Defendant agrees that any charges to be dismissed before or at the time of
15 sentencing were substantially justified in light of the evidence available to the United
16 States, were not vexatious, frivolous or taken in bad faith, and do not provide Defendant
17 with a basis for any future claims under the "Hyde Amendment," Pub. L. No. 105-119
18 (1997).

19 **15. Breach, Waiver, and Post-Plea Conduct.** Defendant agrees that, if
20 Defendant breaches this Plea Agreement: (a) the United States may withdraw from this
21 Plea Agreement and Defendant may be prosecuted for all offenses for which the United
22 States has evidence; (b) Defendant will not oppose any steps taken by the United States
23 to nullify this Plea Agreement, including the filing of a motion to withdraw from the Plea
24 Agreement; and/or (c) Defendant waives any objection to the re-institution of any charges
25 that previously were dismissed or any additional charges that had not been prosecuted.

26 Defendant further understands that if, after the date of this Plea Agreement,
27 Defendant should engage in illegal conduct, or conduct that violates any conditions of

1 release or the conditions of confinement (examples of which include, but are not limited
2 to, obstruction of justice, failure to appear for a court proceeding, criminal conduct while
3 pending sentencing, and false statements to law enforcement agents, the Pretrial Services
4 Officer, Probation Officer, or Court), the United States is free under this Plea Agreement
5 to file additional charges against Defendant and/or to seek a sentence that takes such
6 conduct into consideration by requesting the Court to apply additional adjustments or
7 enhancements in its Sentencing Guidelines calculations in order to increase the applicable
8 advisory Guidelines range, and/or by seeking an upward departure or variance from the
9 calculated advisory Guidelines range. Under these circumstances, the United States is
10 free to seek such adjustments, enhancements, departures, and/or variances even if
11 otherwise precluded by the terms of the Plea Agreement.

12 **16. Waiver of Appellate Rights and Rights to Collateral Attacks.** Defendant
13 acknowledges that, by entering the guilty plea required by this Plea Agreement,
14 Defendant waives all rights to appeal from Defendant's conviction, and any pretrial
15 rulings of the Court, and any rulings of the Court made prior to entry of the judgment of
16 conviction. Defendant further agrees that, provided the Court imposes a custodial
17 sentence that is within or below the Sentencing Guidelines range (or the statutory
18 mandatory minimum, if greater than the Guidelines range) as determined by the Court at
19 the time of sentencing, Defendant waives to the full extent of the law any right conferred
20 by Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742, to challenge, on direct appeal, the
21 sentence imposed by the Court, including any fine, restitution order, probation or
22 supervised release conditions, or forfeiture order (if applicable). This includes any
23 procedural challenges to the sentence, including any claim that the procedure employed
24 at sentencing violated Defendant's constitutional rights.

25 Defendant also agrees that, by entering the guilty plea(s) required by this Plea
26 Agreement, Defendant waives any right to bring a collateral attack against the conviction
27 and sentence, including any restitution order imposed, except as it may relate to the

1 effectiveness of legal representation or a claim of prosecutorial misconduct based on facts
2 unknown or not reasonably discoverable prior to entry of the judgment of conviction.

3 Defendant acknowledges that certain claims, including certain claims for
4 prosecutorial misconduct, will be barred by operation of law by virtue of their guilty plea,
5 independently from this Plea Agreement. This waiver does not preclude Defendant from
6 bringing an appropriate motion to address the conditions of Defendant's confinement or
7 the decisions of the Bureau of Prisons regarding the execution of Defendant's sentence.

8 If Defendant breaches this Plea Agreement at any time by appealing or collaterally
9 attacking (except as to claims not subject to the waiver, above) the conviction or sentence
10 in any way, the United States may prosecute Defendant for any counts, including those
11 with mandatory minimum sentences, that were dismissed or not charged pursuant to this
12 Plea Agreement.

13 **17. Voluntariness of Plea.** Defendant agrees that Defendant has entered into
14 this Plea Agreement freely and voluntarily, and that no threats or promises were made to
15 induce Defendant to enter a plea of guilty other than the promises contained in this Plea
16 Agreement or set forth on the record at the change of plea hearing in this matter.

17 **18. Statute of Limitations.** In the event this Plea Agreement is not accepted by
18 the Court for any reason, or Defendant breaches any of the terms of this Plea Agreement,
19 or Defendant withdraws from this Plea Agreement after it has been accepted by the
20 Court, the statute of limitations shall be deemed to have been tolled from the date of the
21 Plea Agreement to: (1) thirty days following the date of non-acceptance of the Plea
22 Agreement by the Court; or (2) thirty days following the date on which a breach of the
23 Plea Agreement by Defendant is discovered by the United States Attorney's Office; or
24 (3) thirty days following the grant of a motion to withdraw from the Plea Agreement.

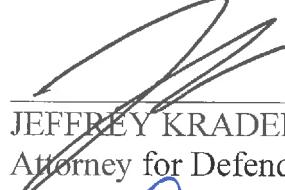
25 **19. Completeness of Plea Agreement.** The United States and Defendant
26 acknowledge that these terms constitute the entire Plea Agreement between the parties,
27 except as may be set forth on the record at the change of plea hearing in this matter. This

1 Plea Agreement binds only the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District
2 of Washington. It does not bind any other United States Attorney's Office or any other
3 office or agency of the United States, or any state or local prosecutor.

4 Dated this 27th day of June, 2025.

5 
6 ALEX ORTIZ

7 Defendant

8 
9 JEFFREY KRADEL
10 Attorney for Defendant

11 
12 VINCENT T. LOMBARDI
13 Assistant United States Attorney

14 
15 CASEY S. CONZATTI
16 ELYNE M. VAUGHT
17 Assistant United States Attorneys